

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
FILTER STRIP

Landowner/user: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

A properly operated and maintained filter strip is an asset to your property. This filter strip was designed and installed to remove sediment, organic matter, chemicals, nutrients or other pollutants from runoff or wastewater, thereby reducing pollution. The estimated life span of this practice is at least 10 years. The life span can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

1. The grass area acts as an absorption area and natural filter for runoff or wastewater that has a minimum amount of solids. Remove as many solids as possible by frequent scraping of barnyard areas and/or frequent cleaning of settling basins and tanks.
2. Weekly wastewater applications should not exceed the design rate, usually one inch per week.
3. Maintain a healthy stand of vegetation by mowing at least once a year to control noxious weeds and stimulate growth. Remove the clippings from the filter strip after mowing.

Inspection and Maintenance

1. Divert surface water away from the filter strip. Check the channels and berms of the clean water diversions frequently. Channels should be protected from erosion and berms maintained at proper height so that diversions maintain their design capacity.
2. Install and maintain a fence around the filter strip to exclude livestock. Livestock may have limited access to the filter strip to graze the vegetation instead of mowing when conditions allow.
3. Check settling basin or tank frequently. Empty the contents as necessary and spread in accordance with the overall management plan.
4. The trench filled with crushed stone should be checked frequently to determine if it has become clogged with solids. Crushed stone should be replaced as needed.

5. Inspect the level lip spreader and adjust, repair or replace as necessary.
6. Inspect the filter area frequently to check for rills or small channels. Repairs must be made immediately to reestablish sheet flow. A shallow furrow on the contour across the filter area can be used to reestablish sheet flow.
7. Maintain hay or pasture below the filter strip whenever possible.

Specific Recommendations for Your Practice
